

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Mr. Richard A. Price
Mr. William F. Luebke
Mr. John L. Margowski, Secretary

VETERANS SERVICE COMMISSION MINUTES

ANNUAL AND EMERGENCY MEETING DATE: January 9, 2006

TIME: 9:00 A.M.

Mr. John L. Margowski, Secretary, called the meeting to order at 9:00 A.M.

Mr. Clarence Stoel, Chairman, was absent. He was excused because of a previous engagement.

Review of the December 6, 2005 Emergency Meeting was held. Mr. Richard Price made a motion to approve the minutes. Mr. William Luebke seconded the motion. There were no changes or corrections. The motion was passed unanimously.

BUDGET FOR YEAR 2007

A copy of the 2006/2007 Budget (\$9,303) was presented. It is recommended that the Budget for Veteran Emergency Services remain the same as for 2006. Mr. Stoel will need to sign the Budget letter.

Mr. Price made a motion to approve the budget. Mr. Luebke seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

EMERGENCY CASES

CASE #RT, (41182):

This veteran is a peacetime veteran and not eligible for a VA Pension. He has Multiple Sclerosis (MS), but has been denied SSD for his disability. He will appeal this decision. In 2003, he applied for and received a Subsistence Aid Grant (SAG) from Wisconsin Department of Veterans Affairs for rent and food because of his illness and inability to work. He recently had another MS flare up. He is not sure if he will be able to return to work. There is no aid through Waukesha County as the General Assistance Program has been eliminated. He is past the 90-day limit for the Assistance to Needy Veterans Grant which replaces the SAG. He has no family in the area. He is looking to pay rent for December and January (\$800) and utilities (\$240.79) for a total cost of \$1,040.79. The rent is \$450 per month; the veteran had paid his landlord \$100 for the December rent. Mr. Margowski suggested approval to pay these bills plus an additional two grants if needed without another Veterans' Commission Meeting.

Mr. Price made a motion to approve the grant with an additional two grants if needed. Mr. Luebke seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

CASE #RAP, (44106):

This is a second grant request for a veteran in which an emergency meeting was held December 6, 2005. The veteran had a stress test on Friday, January 6, 2005, and believes the doctor will give a favorable report for him to go back to work. He is in the process of trying to find employment as his previous job was given to another person. The veteran's work supplements his Social Security Disability Income.

A second grant of \$680.33 is suggested for Rent (\$337.50), WE Energy (\$84.17), Loan (\$120.38), Telephone (\$90.28), and Auto Insurance (\$48.00). Mr. Margowski also suggested approval of a third and final grant if the veteran does not receive a favorable report to return to work. Mr. Luebke made a motion to approve the grant with a third grant if necessary. Mr. Price seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

CASE #DGS, (44146):

Last Monday, January 2, 2006, John Margowski, Director of Veterans Services, and Chris Wiesner, Veterans Service Aide, made a home visit to this Vietnam era veteran who injured his back on the job. He was receiving Workman's Comp, but controversy arose over the job injury and the compensation was stopped. He then had back surgery after Workman's Comp approved the surgery. Veteran is in the process of obtaining an attorney to represent his Workman's Comp claim. There are numerous medical bills that he needs to pay (no assistance available as a veteran). His spouse's part-time job will pay for food.

A \$2,662.59 grant for Auto Insurance (\$83.47), Mortgage (\$1,027.56), Water Bill (\$85.00), Home Equity Loan (\$916.06), WE Energy (\$413.82), and Cable w/Telephone (\$136.68) is suggested with up to two additional grants if needed.

Mr. Price made a motion to approve the grant with two additional grants if necessary. Mr. Luebke seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

OTHER BUSINESS

The Wisconsin Department of Veterans Affairs Board Meeting was held in Union Grove on December 8 & 9, 2005. The most important issues that were discussed were the Board of Veterans Affairs changing from the majority meaning four to the majority meaning five Board Members voting required to hire/fire the Secretary and they also insured they would not pay attorney fees for the Secretary if he is in a dispute over his job.

The Town of Brookfield decided to fly the POW Flag 365 days a year at a meeting held Wednesday, December 7, 2005. The area veterans did a great and peaceful job of presenting their views on the flying of the POW flag.

Mr. Margowski encouraged the Commissioners to attend the County Christmas Party, Saturday, January 14, 2006, being held in Muskego.

Mr. Margowski also encouraged the Commissioners to attend the Salute to Legislature being held Tuesday, February 21, 2006 and Wednesday, February 22, 2006. It is at Monona Terrace in Madison Wisconsin

ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Price made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 10:00 A.M. The motion was seconded by Mr. Luebke and was passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

John L. Margowski, Secretary
JLM/mjw